

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00985 281124Z
ACTION EB-08

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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY QUITO
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION 1976, OUTLOOK FIRST HALF 1977

REF: LAGOS 059

1. NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN DECEMBER 1976 AVERAGED
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00985 281124Z

2,190,252 BARRELS PER DAY JJB/D), SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN
NOVEMBER. SHELL-BP PRODUCTION ACTUALLY CLOSE TO COMPANY
FORECAST OF 1,278,000 B/D. 1,293,000 FIGURE ERROMIOUSLY
CITU REFTEL WAS NOVEMBER FORECAST. ELF PRODUCTION DROP
ATTRIBUTED TO FEW DAQS SHUT-IN DUE LIFTING PROBLEMS.

2. FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS PROVISIONAL PRODUCTION RATES IN B/D FOR DECEMBER AND FINAL FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1977.

COMPANY	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	PERCENT CHANGE
SHELL-BP	1,275,257	1,284,625	.8,7 0.7
GULF	310,668	297,109	0)7 4.6
MOBIL	238,828	237,451	0)7 0.6
AGIP/PHILLIPS	218,843	211,998	PLUS 3.2
ELF	76,286	83,604	MINUS 8.8
TEXACO	51,263	50,860	PLUS 0.8
PAN OCEAN	9,540	9,597	MINUS 0.6
ASHLAND	9,567	9,736	MINUS 1.7
ALL COMPANIES	2,190,252	2,184,980	PLUS 0.2

3. CRUDE OIL EXPORTS SHOT UP ALMOST 200,000 B/D TO AVERAGE 2,299,588 B/D IN DECEMBER AS ALL COMPANIES STROVE TO EMPTY TANKS BEFORE PRICE INCREASE. THIS REPRESENTS THIRD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EXQORTS EVER FOR NIGERIA, BEHIND ONLY SEPTEMBER AND JUNE 1974 LEVELS.

4. DRILLING RIGS EMPLOYED AT MONTH END TOTALLED 14, UNCHANGED.

5. FOR COMPARISON, AVERAGE DAILY PRODUCTION AND EXPORT RATES IN B/D ARE GIVEN BELOW FOR YEARS 1973 THROUGH 1976. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS IS CLOSELY EQUIVALENT TO 60,000 B/D CAPACITY OF PORT HARCOURT REFINERY.

YEAR	PRODUCTION	EXPORTS
1973	2,053,572	1,985,720

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 00985 281124Z

1974	2,255,392	2,197,635
1975	1,784,956	1,722,074
1976	2,067,081	2,009,864

6. PRODUCTION IN JANUARY LIKELY REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM DECMEBER. SHELL-BP ANTICIPATED PRODUCING 1,291,000 B/D IN JANUARY, BUT COMPANY NOW SAYS RATE WILL NOT EXCEED 1,275,000. GULF AND MOBIL WILL PRODUCE AT CLOSE TO DECEMBER RATE, WHILE AGIP/PHILLIPS SAYS PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED TO 225,000 B/D THIS MONTH. ELF PRODUCTION ALSO BACK TO NORMAL RATE AROUND 85,000 B/D.

7. BARRING ACCIDENTS, PRODUCTION DURING FIRST HALF 1977 WILL PROBABLY FLUCTUATE WITHIN RANGE OF 5,000 B/D ABOVE OR BELOW 2.2 MILLION B/D MARK. SHELL-BP EXPECTS TO AVERAGE BETWEEN 1,280,000 AND 1,300,000 B/D. GULF FORESEES AVERAGE OF 310,000 B/D. MOBIL WILL LOSE PRODUCTION FROM ONE ENTIRE FIELD IN FEBRUARY DUE TO SHUTDOWN FOR INSTALLATION OF GAS INJECTION,

AND WILL FACE RELATED SHUT DOWNS IN MARCH. COMPANY ANTICIPATES
AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 225,000 B/D FOR FIRST HALF. AGIP/
PHILLIPS WILL ALSO AVERAGE 225,000. ELF, TEXACO, ASHLAND
AND PAN OCEAN SHOULD MAINTAIN DECEMBER RATES.
EASUM

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